

# COMMISSIONERS MEETING MINUTES

## STOWE TOWNSHIP MEETING

January 9, 2024 7:00 pm

## STOWE TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL BUILDING

555 BROADWAY AVENUE, MCKEES ROCKS, PA 15136

**WORKSHOP MEETING ATTENDEES:** Commissioners T. Kochirka; C. McDermott (*on zoom*); D. Chestnutt; J. Paul; Police Chief M. Preininger; Ordinance A. Marsh; Engineer J. Marcink; Secretary R. Farls

**ABSENT FROM WORKSHOP MEETING:** Commissioner R. Parrilla, Fire Chief M. Chapman; Public Works D. Burkhart

**VOTING MEETING ATTENDEES:** Commissioners T. Kochirka, J. Paul, L. Parrilla, C. McDermott; Township Secretary R. Farls; Solicitor B. Matta

**ABSENT FROM VOTING MEETING:** Commissioner D. Chestnutt

The commissioners' workshop meeting was called to order at 7:00pm by President Kochirka with the pledge of allegiance and a moment of silence for police, fire, EMS. The voting meeting was called to order at 7:00pm.

### PUBLIC COMMENTS

No Public Comments at either meeting

### REPORTS

**FINANCE** – Report given by Secretary R. Farls

**PUBLIC WORKS** – Presented by Commissioner Kochirka

Commissioner McDermott brought up about Lisa Adamatis, who also cleans the schools, is willing to clean /deep clean the township building for \$22 per hour. This was tabled from the December meeting until a discussion with public works was had. This item will be placed on the February agenda, after the conversation.

President Kochirka acknowledged the good work public works did on the recent snow fall. Thank you to the department.

**POLICE** – Presented by Secretary R. Farls. Chief Preininger stated that the recent arrest of four (4) suspects with the child in bed with the guns is now a federal case. Also, Secretary R. Farls, relayed that a phone call was received from the 17-year old's family, who was missing, that the family was extremely grateful and wanted their thanks relayed onto the department. The commissioners acknowledged and thanked the department as well. Commissioner McDermott commented that the resolutions from the camera system, she

feels, assisted in getting good details on clothing and whereabouts and thanked Chief Preininger on the camera system.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT** – Presented by Secretary R. Farls

**ORDINANCE** – Present by Secretary R. Farls

**PLANNING COMMITTEE** –No meeting was scheduled in December or is currently scheduled in January.

**SOLICITOR** – Report given by Solicitor B. Matta. He is also working with Chief Preininger on a resolution in order for the police department to be able to fundraise. Officer Ball had received a copy of a resolution that Solicitor Matta will be looking over. Consideration for adoption of this resolution will be at the February meeting.

The demo hearing that was held back in November, Solicitor Matta stated that there were no appeals and that all properties have been cleared to be demo'd with the exception of 30-32 Ohio, since this property is still in litigation. Solicitor Matta will be following up on this litigation.

There is also a for sale sign on vacant land up on Louis Street, and Solicitor Matta is asking the board to consider a potential lien on the property in order to potentially receive back due funds on this property. Commissioner Paul asked if the properties that we will (or have already demo'd) are now property of the Township. Solicitor Matta stated that all goes back to the owner (if there is one), however the Township may have ways of getting these properties back on the county roles. Suggestions were Sheriff's sale, vacant lot program, Landbanks). Consideration for the lien on Louis Street and further discussion will be at the February meeting.

**ENGINEER** – Presented by Engineer J. Marcink.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**[APPROVED / DENY]** regular Board Meeting Minutes from the December 12, 2023 meeting

**[APPROVED / DENY]** Budget Meeting Minutes from the December 26, 2023 meeting

**[APPROVED / DENY]** Reorganization Meeting Minutes from the January 2, 2024 meeting

**[APPROVED / DENY]** motion to accept the MGI Risk Insurance for Workers Comp from 1-1-2024 thru 12-31-2024 with annual premium at \$137,028

**Committee Assignments** – held over from reorganization meeting on January 2nd  
(*President is on all committees*)

- Finance / Pension - Jeff Paul / Cheryl McDermott / Ron Gallagher
- Public Safety - Tyler Kochirka / Darrell Chestnutt {police commissioner}
  - Police / Fire / Safety
- Community Planning – Cheryl McDermott / Jeff Paul
  - Public Works & Parks
  - Ordinance/Planning/Zoning
  - Property/Building/Lights/Water
  - Health/Sanitation/Stormwater
- COG Representative(s) - Jeff Paul / Tyler Kochirka / Roberta Farls

**Delinquent Collection Agencies** - held over from reorganization meeting, January 2nd

- Central Credit Audit, LLC (formerly Creditech) (sewer) **change to PAMS**
- \_\_\_\_\_ (trash) **change to Jordan Tax Service**
- **Currently Jordan Tax Service** (county, school taxes)
- Keystone Collections (local township taxes) **change to Jordan Tax Service**

**Motion to approve all Unfinished business was made by Commissioner McDermott; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Commissioner J. Paul. Roll call – all approved 4 – Yes 0 – No 0 - Abstained**

**NEW BUSINESS**

- [**APPROVED** / DENY] motion to give Township Secretary R. Farls 2023-year-end bonus of \$4,000 with automatic payments in June and December yearly.
- [**APPROVED** / DENY] to appoint Mr. Gallagher as Treasurer for the Township of Stowe, and to receive a stipend/salary of \$2,700 a year, in accordance with local ordinance 154-1
- [**APPROVED** / DENY] Motion to begin accepting quotes to fix the outside parking lot lights transitioning to LEDs
- [**APPROVED** / DENY] motion to combine the workshop and voting meeting to one (1) day, 2nd Tuesday of every month beginning at 6pm beginning Tuesday, February 13th

**Motion to approve all Unfinished business was made by Commissioner McDermott; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Commissioner J. Paul. Roll call – Commissioners Kochirka, McDermott, Paul approved; Commissioner Parrilla – no (asked for an executive session to discuss items)**

**3 – Yes 1 – No 0 - Abstained**

**RECEIPTS**

	<b>SOURCE</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>
\$ 596.67	Allegheny County	DUIs
\$ 4,571.28	Allegheny County	Magistrate
\$ 150.00	Magistrate	Rental - delinquent rentals
\$115,726.40	PA Municipal Services	Utility Sewage
\$ 2,262.44	Creditech	Collections - Delinquent Sewage
\$ 3,915.87	Jordan Tax Service	Local Services Tax
\$ 24,975.85	Jordan Tax Service	Real Estate Collections
\$ 1,113.29	Jordan Tax Service	Business Privilege Tax
\$ 3,315.92	Jordan Tax Service	Mercantile Tax
\$ 12,257.14	Keystone Collections	Delinquent Real Estate
\$ 1,293.08	PA Office of the Budget	State Police fines & penalties
\$ 4,836.38	Allegheny County	2023/24 Snow/Ice Agreement

[**APPROVED**/DENY] motion to approve receipt of December funds Totaling **\$175,014.32**

**Motion to approve all Unfinished business was made by Commissioner McDermott; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Commissioner J. Paul. Roll call – Commissioners Kochirka, McDermott, Paul approved; Commissioner Parrilla – no**

**3 – Yes      1 – No      0 - Abstained**

**LISTS OF BILLS**

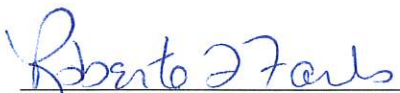
[**APPROVED** / DENY] Motion to approve payment of December bills Totaling **\$30,497.93**

**Motion to approve all Unfinished business was made by Commissioner McDermott; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Commissioner J. Paul. Roll call – all approved 4 – Yes      0 – No      0 - Abstained**

**MEETING ADJOURNMENT**

Motion was made by Commissioner J. Paul; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Commissioner C. McDermott to adjourn. All approved. Meeting was adjourned at 7:05 pm to go into executive session not to return

*(Workshop meeting adjournment was at 7:47pm going into executive session not to return)*

  
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Roberta L. Farls, Township Secretary

  
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Tyler Kochirka, President  
Stowe Township Commissioners